

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Policy/Procedure Guideline

SECTION 17: Railroad Crossings

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 1992
Revised: November 27, 1995

PARAGRAPH: 1. Purpose
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1. PURPOSE:

To improve safety and reduce accidents at rail-highway crossings through-out Maricopa County using Federal funding.

2. DESCRIPTION:

There are 13 steps in processing the up-grading of existing rail-highway crossings in Arizona.

- a. Establish a list of crossings to be improved.
- b. Attend a field review on site.
- c. Include on MCDOT's Transportation Improvement Program.
- d. Send preliminary plans to A.D.O.T. for review.
- e. Send plans to the railroad company for preliminary engineering.
- f. Obtain a county work order number from Accounting.
- g. Receive approval from M.A.G. for funding.
- h. Send revised plans to A.D.O.T., Traffic Engineering.
- i. Send revised plans to A.D.O.T., Utility and Railroad Section.
- j. Process I.G.A. with A.D.O.T., Utility and Railroad Section.
- k. Process I.G.A. with A.D.O.T., Contracts and Specifications Section.
- l. The Arizona Corporation Commission issues an Opinion and Order.

- m. A.D.O.T. issues a letter to proceed to the railroad company.

The entire process is detailed by the Arizona Department of Transportation in the "Arizona Railroad-Highway Crossing Improvement Guide", dated 1980. Maricopa County has followed this book since 1981. (See Exhibit A, the entire manual is available in the Studies Section:)

3. EXHIBITS:

- a. Arizona Railroad-Highway Crossing Improvement Guide published by the Arizona Department of Transportation.
- b. Maricopa County flow chart for rail-highway improvement projects.

4. BACKGROUND:

The Highway Safety Act of 1973, established a categorical safety program for the elimination of hazards at railroad-highway grade crossings. In 1976 the U.S. Congress provided funding for all public crossings in the Surface Transportation Assistance Act. In 1982, Congress again continued the Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Safety Improvement Program in the Surface Transportation Assistant Act. The State of Arizona is the clearing house for the F.H.W.A. money, and acts as an agent for Maricopa County in securing and administering federal funds for these railroad-highway safety projects.

5. AUTHORIZATION:

General order R-1 from the Arizona Corporation Commission.

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

GENERAL ORDER R-1 (Amended)

IT IS ORDERED by the Arizona Corporation Commission, under the provisions of ARS SS 40-336, 403-337.01, and in the exercise of the powers contained therein, that the following rules and regulations shall apply in the construction, reconstruction, improvement, and maintenance of all public railroad-highway grade crossings within the State of Arizona.

The rules and regulations contained in this order are intended to be consistent with the provisions of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as adopted by the Arizona State Highway Commission.

6. REFERENCES:

- a. Arizona Railroad-Highway Crossing Improvement Guide, published by the Arizona Department of Transportation, and revised in June of 1982.
- b. Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Handbook second edition, FHWA-TS-86-215, September 1986.
- c. A Guide to Developing Federal-Aid Funded Railroad-Highway Crossing Safety Improvement Projects. Published by A.D.O.T. Highways Division, Urban Highway Section, Local Government Services, 1989 Edition.

7. ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Railroad Crossing Computer Program - This program covers each rail-highway crossing that is governed by Maricopa County Department of Transportation. This includes: AAR/DOT Number, Crossing Location/Name, Priority Rating, Company Name, Mile Post Number, Type of Protection, Average Daily Traffic Count, Trains per Day, Accidents For Last Three Years, Number of School Buses Crossing, Number of Tracks, Vehicle Speed, Train Speed, Cross Corner Sight Distance and Road Surface.

Approved: _____

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